



As an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) **Adopt-A-Highway** (AAH) volunteer, your safety is our number one priority. Most litter on our roads does not present a danger. However, there have been instances when potentially dangerous items have been found. This informational card will detail the dangers of methamphetamine waste and explain the "Three Rs" of AAH safety: Recognize, Relocate and Report.

WHAT IS METHAMPHETAMINE?

Methamphetamine, commonly referred to as meth, is a man-made drug produced in makeshift home laboratories called meth labs. Meth is made with common household items such as cold medicine, antifreeze and lithium batteries. The materials are cooked together using Crock-pots, burners and other equipment. The result is meth lab waste which is flammable, toxic and in some cases, deadly.

WHAT DO METH LABS HAVE TO DO WITH AAH?

In an attempt to discard evidence, meth users sometimes throw used materials along Illinois highways. AAH volunteers may see this waste and think it is simply roadside trash. Meth lab waste may appear harmless; but it is not. You need to recognize these materials and stay away from them.

HOW SERIOUS IS THE SITUATION?

Methamphetamine accounts for up to 90 percent of all drug cases in many Illinois communities. In 2004, The Illinois State Police averaged two to three meth lab seizures per day. This information is not meant to alarm you; but rather to educate you so that you may take proper safety precautions.



RECOGNIZE RELOCATE REPORT

HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE METH WASTE?

Odors - Meth production creates strong odors that may smell like ammonia, ether, solvents or vinegar.

Materials - Meth is made from a variety of household items, such as cold medicine tablets, lithium batteries, coffee filters, milk cartons and matchbooks.

Chemicals - Meth production requires a variety of chemicals and gases, such as propane tanks, compressed gas cylinders, antifreeze and acetone. These are potentially explosive and combustible.

Makeshift equipment - Meth makers use a variety of makeshift equipment, like respiratory masks or filters, rubber gloves, tubes, funnels, glass containers, Crock-pots, hot plates and milk cartons.



Meth lab waste found on roadside.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND METH WASTE?

Recognize - The materials, chemicals and makeshift equipment used in meth labs may be found individually, grouped together or contained inside trash bags along the highway. If you find any of the above items and believe them to be meth lab waste, trust your instinct and do not tamper with them in any way.

Relocate - If you think you may be looking at meth waste materials, keep your distance! Realize that you may be looking at both a crime scene and a toxic waste dump. Gather the members of your group and move away from the site.

Report - Call your local police district or 911 immediately to report what you see. Tie a garbage bag to a nearby fence or pole to help direct law enforcement to the site.